

# Family-Based Immigrant Visas

## **How do I schedule an interview appointment for an immigrant visa?**

Once the case is completed and there is an appointment slot available at the U.S. Interests Section, the National Visa Center will send the petitioner in the United States a letter with the applicant's interview date or further instructions regarding the scheduling of the appointment.

## **My immigrant visa petition has already been completed but an interview appointment has not been scheduled for the beneficiary. Why?**

Given the resources available, the U.S. Interests Section can only offer a limited number of immigrant visa interviews per day. At times, immigrant visa applicants may have to wait several months for their interview appointment.

## **The beneficiary's interview has been scheduled but the beneficiary has not received the packet of forms and instructions required for the consular interview. What should I do?**

The U.S. Interests Section no longer sends packets to beneficiaries in Cuba. The required forms can be downloaded by visiting our website at <http://havana.usint.gov/>

## **The beneficiary does not have access to the Internet. How can the beneficiary obtain the packet of forms and instructions?**

Petitioners in the United States should make an effort to provide the beneficiary the necessary forms required for the consular interview. If the petitioner is unable to provide these forms, the petitioner may send us a brief message using our "Contact Us" link available at our website explaining the reasons why the required forms were not sent to the beneficiary in Cuba.

## **How can the beneficiary get the required medical examination done without a packet?**

Petitioners in the United States should send the beneficiary in Cuba a copy of their interview appointment letter along with the list of hospitals sent to them by the National Visa Center. There are no additional forms that need to be presented to have the medical exam done.

## **The beneficiary was not able to get the required documentation on time for the interview. What happens now?**

Immigrant visa beneficiaries may still come to their interview but the visa application will not be adjudicated. The interviewing consular officer will provide the beneficiary a pass to return to the U.S. Interests Section when the required documentation has been obtained. Alternatively, the beneficiary or petitioner may contact our Consular Information Unit by using the "Contact Us" link available at our website to reschedule the appointment.

## **How do I find out if my petition has become current?**

The petitioner or beneficiary should consult the visa bulletin of the Department of State. This information is also available at the U.S. Interests Section by calling 834-4281 or in the United States (202) 663-1541.

### **NOTICE**

All Cuban applicants ages 16-80 (inclusive) are subject to additional administrative processing in order to verify the applicant's qualification for the visa class requested. This process often lasts 90-120 days, but in some instances, it may take several months. The U.S. Interests Section cannot adjudicate a visa case until this process has concluded. The U.S. Interests Section will contact the applicant as soon as this process has been completed and a final determination has been made on the case.

**I was unable to travel to the United States during the validity of my visa. Can I get an extension?**

No. Immigrant visa holders who are unable to travel to the United States during the validity of their visa for reasons beyond their control should ask a family member or associate in the United States to contact our Visa Information and Appointment Scheduling Service at 1-866-374-1769 to schedule an interview appointment to be considered for a visa renewal. The applicant should take this step only when s/he is ready to travel to the United States.

**What documentation do I need to bring to be considered for a visa renewal?**

Beneficiaries are required to bring (1) recent passport style photograph, current medical examination results and current police records (for applicants 16 years of age or older), valid passport, a nonrefundable visa fee (please see our chart under consular fees) and the travel packet issued to the applicant by the U.S. Interests Section. In addition, beneficiaries will need to demonstrate that they were unable to travel during the validity of their visa for reasons beyond their control.

**Will a renewal be automatic?**

No. All requests for visa renewals must be evaluated by a consular officer and are subject to administrative processing in order to verify the beneficiary's qualification for the visa class requested.

**How can I cancel a petition?**

If the petition is with the National Visa Center, the petitioner should contact that office directly. If the petition is at U.S. Interests Section, the petitioner should send us a signed statement via fax (53) (7) 833-1084 requesting to withdraw the petition along with a copy of page 2 of his/her American passport.

**Can the beneficiary of an immigrant visa request parole?**

Eligible beneficiaries may request parole for certain family members the day of their consular interview. For more information about family-based parole, please check our "Frequently Asked Questions" section available at our website <http://havana.usint.gov/>

**Can I file an immigration visa petition at the U.S. Interests Section?**

Only U.S. citizen who officially reside in Cuba can file an immigrant visa petition at the U.S. Interests Section. Other U.S. citizens must file their petition in the United States.

**The principal beneficiary does not wish to immigrate to the U.S., but the derivatives want to continue with the petition. Is this possible?**

No. The derivatives must immigrate at either the same time or after than the principal beneficiary.

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